

## The Institute of Education Sciences

(IES) brings rigor, relevance and real world applicability to our nation's education system. It is transforming education into an evidence-based field in which decision-makers turn to rigorous data to inform policies and practices that affect students. IES accomplishes this mission through the work of its four centers:

- **National Center for Education Research**  
ncer.ed.gov
- **National Center for Education Statistics**  
nces.ed.gov
- **National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance**  
ncee.ed.gov
- **National Center for Special Education Research**  
ncser.ed.gov

"Our mission is to provide rigorous evidence on which to ground education practice and policy."

**Grover J. "Russ" Whitehurst**  
Director, Institute of Education Sciences

### Institute of Education Sciences

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## Letter from the Director

The Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 established a new organization within the U.S. Department of Education, the Institute of Education Sciences. Our mission is to provide rigorous evidence on which to ground education practice and policy. By identifying what works, what doesn't, and why, we intend to improve the outcomes of education for all students, particularly those at risk of failure.

The Institute funds hundreds of research studies on ways to improve academic achievement, conducts large-scale evaluations of federal education programs and reports a wide array of statistics on the condition of education such as the National Assessment of Educational Progress. We support the building of an infrastructure for evidence-based education through activities such as grants to states to develop longitudinal data systems. We disseminate evidence on education to the public and practitioners through the What Works Clearinghouse and the ERIC education database, conferences, publications and products, 10 regional education laboratories and 10 national research and development centers.

By law and by culture our activities are free of partisan political influence. We operate with the oversight and counsel of the National Board for Education Sciences.

Whether you are a practitioner, researcher, policymaker, student, or concerned citizen, I invite you to become familiar with the work of the Institute and to join with us in the commitment to evidence-based education.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
EDUCATION RESEARCH



NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
EDUCATION STATISTICS



NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
EDUCATION EVALUATION  
AND REGIONAL ASSISTANCE



NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
SPECIAL EDUCATION  
RESEARCH



( NCER )

( NCES )

( NCEE )

( NCSE )

The National Center for Education Research (NCER) supports rigorous, scientifically based research that addresses the nation's most pressing education needs, from early childhood to postsecondary education.

NCER supports individual researchers, research and development centers, and doctoral training programs in the education sciences.

NCER-funded researchers cover a wide range of topics. For example, they look for strategies to improve teaching and ease students' transition from high school to college. They address learning problems in reading, writing, mathematics and science. They study social and character development in schools, early intervention in the education of young children, the latest advances in cognitive science and high school reform. NCER also funds Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contracts to stimulate high-tech innovations in the small business community.

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and reporting statistical data related to education. To understand the state of the U.S. education system, NCES collects and reports information on emerging issues as well as trends in education performance.

The Center conducts more than 30 surveys a year, from preschool through graduate study, including adult education and literacy. NCES also reports on financial and human resources devoted to education. Studies it supports compare U.S. performance on international assessments with that of other nations. And NCES assesses the impact of education on employment and economic productivity.

NCES is perhaps best known for conducting the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the "Nation's Report Card," which for more than three decades has provided timely and accurate information about student performance in mathematics, reading and other subjects.

The National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE) conducts large-scale evaluations of education programs and practices supported by federal funds, such as Reading First and Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

NCEE also coordinates the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC), an online source of trusted, scientifically based education research that provides assessments of the effectiveness of education programs that are replicable and have good evidence that they have worked.

The Center manages the Regional Educational Laboratory program and the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), the largest education database in the world with more than 100,000 archived full-text documents. NCEE also maintains the National Library of Education, the U.S. Department of Education's primary library resource center.

The National Center for Special Education Research (NCSE) sponsors a comprehensive program of special education research designed to expand the knowledge and understanding of infants, toddlers and children with disabilities.

NCSE also is charged with improving services provided under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and with evaluating IDEA's implementation and effectiveness.

In fulfilling the U.S. Department of Education's commitment to promote the highest levels of achievement for all children, NCSE funds a broad array of research activities. For example, NCSE-supported researchers are studying language and vocabulary, individualized education programs, early intervention, testing in special education and the education of children with serious behavioral disorders.



[ncer.ed.gov](http://ncer.ed.gov)



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